



## MEETING MINUTES / 18 APRIL 2017

### ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Showell, Armbruster (call-in), Hampton, Lardizzone, McMullen, Sarg, Seppala, and Smith  
**64.2%**

Absences: Baldwin, Bradley, Coons, Newman, Newstadt

Guests: Jason Stewart, Dave Skocik (Friends of Delaware Veterans), Vivian Starnes (DAV Auxiliary), Liz Byers-Jiron (Delaware Stand Down)

### CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

During Moment of Silence, asked all to acknowledge deployers

### MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzone and Sarg

### ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

**Wilmington VAMC – Ginny Yelland, Executive to the Director**

Excused

**Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:**

Discussed increase of daily rate for private pays

- Only three increases in previous ten years
- Requesting \$5.00 rate increase starting in June
  - - **Motion made/approved for increase**
- Proposed a review structure base on increases equal to annual Department of Veterans Affairs rates
  - - Follow percentage increase proposal each October for a following January implementation
  - - **Motion/approved to propose future increases based on Department of Veterans Affairs annual fee rates**
- Review will begin 1 July 2018 and Director Peterson will provide proposed increases in winter 2017/January 2018

Ten year anniversary event moved to Monday, 12 June / 1000

- Separate informal social on Tuesday, 13 June / 1600

**Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:**

Residents 15 males and 4 females

Open House scheduled for Thursday, 27 April / 1100

Submitted Grant and Per Diem request for male facility

Applied for female bed support through Wilkes Barre Veterans Affairs program

Both homes are in need of furniture, will pick up from the location

**DOL – Veteran Employment and Training Service, State Director, Dave Rich,**

Homeless Veteran Reintegration Plan grants have been submitted

State of Delaware has 24 – 48 hour job preview for Veterans signed up on Delaware Job Link

- Wondering if Veterans and employers are aware of the program

Veteran unemployment continues to be below 4%

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

### **Dave Strawbridge, Delaware Technical Community College**

Veteran Resource Centers will be opening at the Terry (23 May) and Owens (31 May) campuses

- Areas provide a safe haven and information for Veterans

Information about upcoming job fairs can be found at [www.delawarejobfair.net](http://www.delawarejobfair.net)

### **Dave Skocik, Delaware Veterans Coalition**

Veteran Organizations should support the Delaware Veterans Trust Fund through a dedicated fundraising event

### **Liz Byers-Jiron, Delaware Veterans Stand Down**

Stand Down planning has begun and the next meeting is 27 April / 1300

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:**

Interments – 86

Tree of Life (Display) Dedication Ceremony Friday, 28 April / 0930

- Sponsored by Spicer-Mullikin Funeral Home

Retirement event for Grounds Tech Jim Phillips following the dedication

POW/MIA Chair of Honor – tentatively Saturday, 20 May / 1000

### **Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:**

Interments - 34

Flag Day Ceremony Wednesday, 14 June / 1000

### **Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:**

Brain Injury Trust Fund provides assistance for facility modifications for those with brain injuries and/or strokes, \$50K remains in the fund

### **Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen**

House Bill 112 allowing state licensing/commissions to recognize military education, training, and experience.

This expands previous legislation to include military retirees and Veterans. The bill is out of committee

House Bill 26 created special license plate for Operation Desert Storm Veterans, signed by Governor

### **Commemorative Affairs, Commissioner Hampton**

Bear Cemetery Saturday, 27 May / 1030

Bridge Tuesday, 30 May / 1030

Commissioner Hampton volunteered to oversee the Commemorative Affairs Committee

## **ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:**

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

No April Chapter meeting

Chapter continues recurring Veterans Home visits

Division 1 Convention was 22 – 25 March in Dayton Ohio

- Chapter recognized for Airman of Year and Legislator of Year

Professional Airmen's (National) Conference is 22 – 26 July in Reno Nevada

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

Boys State activities are 8 – 14 June

Departmental Convention is 11 – 13 July, Dover Downs

National Conference is 18 – 25 August

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS)

Not present

Commissioner Smith (DELVETS)

Post sponsored Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home event on 25 March

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

Harvest Ridge Winery Fundraiser was successful, post purchased Ford Flex for VA transportation  
DAV at Ballgame (Blue Rocks) event is Wednesday, 10 May

Commissioner Coons (KWVA)

Not present

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

Discussed Senator Carper's Summit event with VA Secretary Shulkin

- Secretary presented VA priorities to improve service/treatment

Homeless Veterans information: 597 Veterans have been housed since May 2015

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA)

Visited Capitol Hill on 5 April

- Met with Senator Carper and Representative Blunt-Rochester

Organization is focused on protecting military retiree "retirement pay"

Elimination of Sequestration from DoD budget

Elimination of SBP/DIC Offset (Widow's Tax)

Control disproportional health care cost increases to be no more than the Military Retiree's annual COLA increase

Awaiting Appointment (MOPH)

Position vacant

Commissioner Seppala (MOWW)

National Conference is 2 – 6 August in Billings, MT

Departmental Change of Command is scheduled for organization's next meeting

Commissioner Newman (VFW)

Not present

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA)

Not present

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)

Not present

Commissioner Showell (At Large)

Inherited new DNG position as legislative liaison

- Supporting Veterans in higher education legislation

- - Meeting periodically with Veteran Student Representatives

Kiwanis Club of Wilmington, Armed Forces Day Luncheon, Wednesday, 17 May, Hotel Dupont

Legislative Day, Thursday, 4 May, Tatnall Building

Commissioner Hampton (At Large)

Requested information for providing a letter of appreciation to a deserving volunteer

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

DVTF: Requests 8, Granted 7 (87.5%), Awarded \$7055.59 and Balance \$55,551.00

Governor's Prayer Breakfast, Thursday, 4 May / 0630

- Solicited additional Commissioner attendees

Expressed preference to have Memorial Day Bridge event on Monday, 29 May because it is a federal holiday (allowing maximum Veteran, Service Member, and Family participation)

**TERM EXPIRATION:**

Armbruster 14 June 2017

Farley 14 June 2017

Sarg 14 June 2017

Seppala 14 June 2017

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

World War I Memorial (OPEN)

- Scheduled for placement 27 April at Legislative Hall

- Dedication will take place around Veterans Day

May Meeting with Lt Gen Timmons (OPEN)

- 16 May / 1000 meeting with convene at DNG Headquarters

August Meeting at American Veterans' Post 22 (OPEN)

- Awaiting date confirmation from Commissioner Bradley

**NEW BUSINESS:**

N/A

**ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:**

N/A

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

None

**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, 16 May 2017 at 10:00 AM

**LOCATION:** Delaware National Guard "Biden" Headquarters